

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method for calculating a telecommunication service charge of a user based on a predetermined length of time for which the user uses the telecommunication service, comprising the steps of:

a) calculating reference time of the user based on telecommunication service use time for a predetermined period;

b) calculating flat rate application time based on the predetermined additional amount, the flat rate application time being a period during which flat rate is applied after the reference time;

c) reading the user's telecommunication service subscription time of this month from a database for storing the user's telecommunication service usage history; and

d) imposing a first service charge if the telecommunication service use time of the user is shorter than the reference time, imposing a second service charge if the telecommunication service use time of the user is longer than the reference time and shorter than the flat rate application time, and imposing a third service charge if the telecommunication service use time of the user is longer than the flat rate application time,

wherein if the user is an updated subscriber for an i th service period, the additional amount is calculated based on an equation as:

additional amount for i^{th} service period =

additional amount for $(i-1)^{\text{th}}$ service period \times

$$\frac{\text{monthly average use time for } (i-1)^{\text{th}} \text{ service period}}{\text{reference time for } (i-1)^{\text{th}} \text{ service period}}$$

Claim 2 (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first service charge is a service charge corresponding to the reference time.

Claim 3 (Original): The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to the service charge corresponding to the reference time.

Claim 4 (Original): The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the flat rate application time is unlimited time if the user pays the additional amount.

Claim 5 (Original): The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the third service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to a time rate corresponding to the telecommunication service use time.

Claim 6 (Original): The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the second service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to the service charge corresponding to the reference time.

Claim 7 (Original): The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the third service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to a time rate corresponding to the time for which the user used the telecommunication service.

Claim 8 (Original): The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the flat rate application time is unlimited time if the user pays the additional amount.

Claim 9 (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if the user's telecommunication service use time is longer than the reference time and shorter than time corresponding to the additional amount, the second service charge is a time rate corresponding to the telecommunication service use time; and

if the user's telecommunication service use time is longer than the time corresponding to the additional amount and shorter than the flat rate application time, the second service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to the service charge corresponding to the reference time.

Claim 10 (Original): The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the third service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to a time rate corresponding to the user's telecommunication service use time.

Claim 11 (Original): The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the flat rate application time is unlimited time if the user pays the additional amount.

Claim 12 (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if the user's telecommunication service use time is longer than the reference time and shorter than time corresponding to the additional amount, the second service charge is a time rate corresponding to the telecommunication service use time; and

if the user's telecommunication service use time is longer than the time corresponding to the additional amount and shorter than the flat rate application time, the second service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to the service charge corresponding to the reference time.

Claim 13 (Original): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the third service charge is an amount obtained by adding the additional amount to a time rate corresponding to the user's telecommunication service use time.

Claim 14 (Original): The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the flat rate application time is unlimited time if the user pays the additional amount.

Claim 15 (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the additional amount is determined based on the reference time of each user.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Original): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein if the user is an updated subscriber for an i^{th} service period and the user's monthly average use time of an $(i-1)^{\text{th}}$ service period comes between 0 and the flat rate application time, the monthly average use time of the $(i-1)^{\text{th}}$ service period is determined as the reference time; and

if the user's monthly average use time of the $(i-1)^{\text{th}}$ service period comes between flat rate application time and the unlimited time (∞), the monthly average use time of the $(i-1)^{\text{th}}$ service period is determined as the reference time.